

Libby ou1



**Fw: OU-1 cleanup work**  
**Victor Ketellapper to: Steve Wharton, Carol Campbell**

1258949 - R8 SDMS

06/14/2010 01:09 PM

Attached below, is Mike's response to DC Orr's concerns

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----- Forwarded by Victor Ketellapper/R8/USEPA/US on 06/14/2010 01:07 PM -----

From: Mike Cirian/R8/USEPA/US  
To: DC Orr <xcav8orr@hotmail.com>  
Cc: Andy Lensink/R8/USEPA/US@epa, Bill Murray/R8/USEPA/US@epa, brad@libbyasbestos.org, catharine\_ransom@baucus.senate.gov, clecours@mt.gov, filmwest@gmail.com, suzi rios <five\_rivers@ymail.com>, Freya Margand/DC/USEPA/US@epa, gordsull@yahoo.com, Helen Dawson/DC/USEPA/US@epa, jpodolinsky@mt.gov, Kirby Campbell-Rierson <kirby\_campbell-rierson@baucus.senate.gov>, larry.anderson@mail.house.gov, Lawrence Grandison/R8/USEPA/US@epa, mvolesky@mt.gov, Rebecca Thomas/R8/USEPA/US@epa, rodriguez-newstroml@cdm.com, Sean Earle/R4/USEPA/US@epa, Ted Linnert/R8/USEPA/US@epa, Terry Spear <tspear@mttech.edu>, Victor Ketellapper/R8/USEPA/US@epa, Virginia Sloan <virginia\_sloan@tester.senate.gov>, jim.hammons@cityoflibby.com, glena.young@cityoflibby.com  
Date: 06/07/2010 03:26 PM  
Subject: Re: OU-1 cleanup work

Mr. Orr;

This is in response to concerns you raised regarding the City's installation of a waterline at the former Export Plant property. EPA has coordinated closely with the City Administrator, city crew and the City's engineering firm to assist the City with this waterline extension project. EPA agreed to excavate two portions of the trench through suspected or known areas of contamination. The City agreed to excavate the connecting portion of the line that runs parallel to the river. The City's contractor and engineering firm would provide the installation and oversight of the waterline distribution and service connections.

Throughout the length of the project, EPA was available to provide oversight, respond to questions, or offer additional assistance for any work where the City might have encountered vermiculite or asbestos contamination. The City's contractor, who is trained and certified for asbestos work, was informed of EPA's offer of assistance during a pre-construction meeting. The City's contractors did not contact EPA for assistance. EPA coordination with the City Administrator and city workers was excellent.

As you have identified, there is an area near the ramp access where suspect materials will be covered with a single lift (approximately 6 inches) of clean fill and a barrier has been placed to delineate that transition zone and all other areas were covered with 12 inches of common fill. Remediation of this area, along with the rest of the former Export Plant property, will be completed once EPA implements the remedy selected in the Record of Decision (May 2010).

I can assure you that EPA's contractor and the city crew excavating the trenches did not cross contaminate the site, nor did they track vermiculite or asbestos contamination off site. When the excavation was completed, EPA turned the project over to the City and its' engineering firm for completion of the waterline extension project.

Regarding the rumors about any recent personnel actions, they are rumors and are not true.

Sincerely,

Mike Cirian, PE  
US EPA  
Remedial Project Manager

OU-1 cleanup work

OU-1 cleanup work

brad, Mike Cirian, catharine\_ransom, clecours, Sean  
Earle, filmwest, gordsull, Lawrence Grandison, Helen  
Dawson, jpodolinsky, Victor Ketellapper, Kirby  
DC Orr to: Campbell-Rierson, Larry Anderson, Andy  
Lensink, Ted Linnert, Freya Margand, Bill Murray,  
mvolesky, Rebecca Thomas, rodriguez-newstroml, suzi  
rios, Terry Spear, Virginia Sloan

06/07/2010 08:18 AM

Mr. Cirian;

I was able to view the work at OU-1 over the weekend and it raised some questions.

There is obvious visible vermiculite along the entire toe of the slope in the ramp access to this site. This has been identified as a major source of contamination. It would appear that EPA is not going to remove this visible vermiculite. It has been laying there, uncovered, in a public park since your contractor exposed it 8-10 weeks ago.

There are tracks from various types of machinery that have trampled right through the pockets of visible vermiculite. Some of these tracks have left a visible trail where they tracked the contaminated soil into the sand your contractors had spread over some of the excavation to make the site accessible for the contractors installing the waterline. This cross contamination has the potential to come back on the people of Libby who have expressed interest in making a playground in that area since it will be only six inches underground and ICs are being designed for at least twelve inches of cover.

Can you tell me if there were any instructions to the waterline contractors to avoid these pockets of raw vermiculite while installing the 1700 foot utility? Were there procedures in place to decontaminate the installers equipment before they moved that equipment to another job? What were those procedures? Did you document compliance?

I have heard that the inspectors who watched the City crews dig this ditch sat in a City truck with the motor running to keep warm while they were on-site and couldn't always see the activity. This does not inspire confidence

that these are professionals brought in to monitor work at the site with the greatest death and disease in the history of EPA. There are also rumors that drug testing recently eliminated a large section of trained personnel from your contractors roster. Please tell me this is not true.

There is topsoil dumped in some places where it is touching this exposed vermiculite. Is it your intention to avoid a cover of common fill before the topsoil goes on? This would leave only a six inch cover of topsoil between the raw product and the people using this public park. Is that acceptable to EPA?

Please answer these questions before the crews go down there and cover this up.

Sincerely, DC Orr

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